

Weekly Column for September 23

I'm in a sporting mood this week- most likely because of the upcoming challenge the City has itself this coming Sunday.

Beginning at 1 p.m. at The Joe in Hudson Valley Community College, the City of Troy will be taking on Rensselaer County in a Yellow Ribbon Showdown Softball game to benefit the troops overseas.

The day is going to be a blast. After the City and the County face off, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, led by Sheriff Jack Mahar, will take on The Troy Police Benevolent Association, led by Robert Fitzgerald. That should be a good game to watch, but the big one in my opinion is the Troy City Action Team versus the Rensselaer County Legends (where they got the name I do not know.)

Of course this is all for a good cause, but I would be lying if I said each side, at least the people at the top, really want to win. Amazingly we have 40 players on our team for a 5-inning softball game. How that worked out, I do not know. What I do understand is that City Councilman Bob Krough, the coach/manager/organizer of the county team has had his guys out in the fields of Poestenkill practicing twice a day for three weeks now. Apparently Bob really wants to win.

Sorry, Councilman, it just is not going to happen. Our manager is Demolition Dan Crawley, who will use his articulate skills as a baseball guy to delicately move the 40 players in and out of the lineup, all while making sure people get the right amount of playing time. Should be interesting for Dan.

For some reason, I have been selected to be the starting pitcher for Sunday's game. Don't ask. All I have to say is watch out to whoever the County puts up there first. It should be interesting.

On final note about the game, Tony Buchanan has been named the honorary captain of the Troy team. For those of you who don't know, Tony arrived home last week from Iraq, and I was so happy to be there when he got home. It was one of the more emotional sights I've witnessed in some time. Tony has to go back to Iraq next month, but while he's home we want to make him feel like no one wants him to leave. Hopefully he'll end up getting the game winning hit Sunday as we take down the Legends.

For those interested in supporting the game, all of the money goes to the Yellow Ribbon Fund, and the troops overseas. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased the day of the event at the Joe. There will be fun for the whole family there- food, music, games, and of course softball. So if you have the time, come out Sunday, root for whoever your rooting interest is, and support a good cause.

See you next week

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy